BOOK REVIEWS

PAUL BISSELL, JANINE MORGALL TRAULSEN. *Sociology and Pharmacy Practice*. London: Pharmaceutical Press; 2005. 226 pp, $99.95 (hardcover), ISBN 0-85369-613-6.

Reviewed By: Ana C. Quiñones, PhD, MS

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Sociology and Pharmacy Practice is a book written by 2 European academicians trained as sociologists but actively involved in pharmacy practice research in their respective countries. As such, the authors/editors are uniquely able to support the main thesis of this book: how social theory can help in the development of pharmacy practice-related research. The authors specifically state that this is a book "written primarily for pharmacists as well as other researchers doing pharmacy practice research who believe that studies conducted with a well-thought-out and argued methodology are more valuable than method with no theoretical anchoring."

The book consists of 10 chapters, most of them addressing a specific sociological construct. The first chapter sets the tone for the book by introducing the meaning and goals of sociology and medical sociology. The theories/concepts discussed in the book include those of Karl Marx (Chapter 2), Talcott Parsons/Functionalism (Chapter 3), Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 4), Feminism (Chapter 5), Race and Ethnicity (Chapter 6), Michel Foucault (Chapter 7), Risk (Chapter 8), and Professionalisation (Chapter 9). Though summarizing constructs that have been the topic of books by themselves can be a daunting task, the authors did a remarkable job at delivering the essence of each concept. Most chapters include criticisms of the theory under consideration as well as specific examples of how these constructs might be relevant to pharmacy research. A very helpful feature of each chapter was the inclusion of a list of resources for further reading.

As an academician trained in the discipline of pharmacy social and administrative sciences, I believe *Sociology and Pharmacy Practice* provides an excellent overview of how major sociological approaches might be helpful when attempting to answer current research questions in our field. I have to agree with the authors' statement that "pharmacy practice research is essentially an insular, inward-looking discipline that does not reach out to other disciplines for ideas in its research." I recommend this book to other faculty members and graduate students in the field; it would be a logical inclusion in a pharmacy social research-type course.

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LOYD V. ALLEN, JR, NICHOLAS G POPOVICH, HOWARD C. ANSEL. *Ansel's Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems*, 8th Edition. Baltimore, Md: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005.

Reviewed By: L.Clifton Fuhrman Jr.

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The eighth edition of *Ansel's Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems* has a significant change to its title. The text now bears the name of its original author, Howard Ansel. In the academia field of pharmaceutics, the text has always been known as just *Ansel's*. The text now entitled *Ansel's Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems* is a fitting tribute to the author who pioneered this educational work over 30 years ago. Another change is that the first author is now Dr. Loyd Allen who, in conjunction with Dr. Ansel and Dr. Popovich, has rewritten several sections of the eighth edition while expanding the text with the introduction of case studies related to manufacturing pharmaceutics topics and concepts as well as clinical patient care.

The text is now divided into 8 sections or divisions, with the inclusion of Physical Pharmacy Capsules and the Pharmaceutical and Clinical Cases with the SOAP note emphasis in sections where relevant. The sections are: (I) Introduction to Drugs, Drug Dosage Forms, and Drug Delivery Systems, (II) Drug Dosage Form and Drug Delivery System Design, (III) Solid Dosage Forms and Solid Modified-Release Drug Delivery Systems, (IV) Semisolid Dosage Forms and Transdermal Systems, (V) Pharmaceutical Inserts, (VI) Liquid Dosage Forms, (VII) Sterile Dosage Forms and Delivery Systems, (VIII) Novel and Advanced Dosage Forms Delivery Systems and Devices. The information presented in the text is in a logical sequential manner for learning and teaching pharmaceutical dosage forms. A significant addition to this text is the case study section with the SOAP note format. This addition lends itself to providing the student relevancy of the subject matter to the practice of pharmacy. There has been some rearrangement in material and updated information on good compounding practices, biologicals, and biotechnology products. Tables that include drug products in each dosage form section have been updated and enhanced. The authors have also included a glossary of pharmaceutical terms in the

appendix section. Finally, the text has been given a "fresh" look with more colorful graphics and updated pictures.

As a student nearly 30 years ago, one of our required texts in pharmaceutics was *Ansel's* 2nd edition. Now as a faculty member teaching pharmaceutics, *Ansel's* is still our required textbook. As I reviewed the eighth edition of this text, I was extremely pleased to see the attention given to detail in the updating of tables and pictures, as well as the addition of the newest drugs and novel dosage forms. The case study and SOAP note format provides a more clinical view of dosage forms, while the Physical Pharmacy Capsules provide theory and concepts to be discussed and explained in an extremely organized manner. *Ansel's* continues to sequence the information in the text in a manner that is conducive for teaching and learning the subject matter. In conclusion, *Ansel's* has been and continues to be the required text of choice for teaching introductory dosage forms in any pharmacy curriculum.

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REES JA, SMITH I, SMITH B. *Introduction to Pharmaceutical Calculations*, 2nd Edition. Pharmaceutical Press, London UK, 2005, 226 + xiv pp, $ 34.95 (paperback), ISBN 0-85369-603-9.

Reviewed By: Nandita G. Das, PhD

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The second edition of *Introduction to Pharmaceutical Calculations* by Rees, Smith and Smith utilizes a practical approach to pharmaceutical calculations. The merit of this book lies in its systematic approach to problem-solving via the consistent use of proportions. Simple language and technique is used for the stepwise approach to each problem, such as sorting through given data and constructing proportion sets to obtain the required data using simple algebra. The book is divided into 10 chapters, with every chapter helpfully listing a set of learning objectives. Chapters 1 and 2 focus on essential basic tools such as ratios, proportions, fractions and units, including conversions. The next 3 chapters discuss percentage and ratio strengths, dilutions, and increasing and reducing formulae. Chapter 6 involves dose calculations, including calculations based on body weight and body surface area. Density and displacement volumes are discussed in chapter 7, including calculations for displacement value of drugs with respect to various suppository bases. Chapter 8, on calculations involving molecular weights, is an asset. Although armed with a college-level background in chemistry, a surprising number of pharmacy students are frequently found to be less than comfortable with the concepts of atomic and molecular weights, valence, the relationship between free acids/bases and their various salts, and the relationship between anhydrous and hydrated forms of a drug. The next chapter is devoted to parenteral and isotonicity calculations. The last chapter emphasizes the importance of accuracy of measurement. The book ends with a number of appendices on conversions, atomic weights, etc.

As a professional trained in the British system and currently teaching in the American system, I can offer some specific insights into this book's utility in pharmacy education in the United States. First of all, the reader must bear in mind that this is a book authored by British authors and primarily aimed at UK pharmacy programs. Hence, some terminology may not be familiar to US readers, for instance, body weight given in stone and terms such as "paracetamol", "co-codaprin" or "co-fluampicil". References are made to British National Formulary dose recommendations. Certain drugs used in the examples are not approved in the United States, such as domperidone, although the drug name or therapeutic indication has no correlation with the skill sets required for dose calculations. The second concern is regarding the methodology, in spite of being classical and (arguably) the logical way of solving problems. Professional education follows high school and early college courses, and teaching methodologies frequently must be adapted to the existing skill set of our students. In adapting this book as a primary text, the educator must be willing to train the students in the methodology utilized, especially the manner in which it is presented in this book, which may be less than conducive to the learning style of the majority of US students who are increasingly comfortable with dimensional analysis. The third concern is the lack of modern clinical context in the examples and practice problems, which include products such as chloroform water, triturates, and pessaries. On the flip side, the text is limited in its coverage of concepts such as milliequivalents, osmolarity, etc. The last concern is the dearth of practice problems. Overall, this is a classical book of pharmaceutical calculations and a useful secondary text for US pharmacy educators and students.

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PHILIP P. GERBINO. *Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy*, 21st Edition. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005. xxii + 2393 pp, 1200 illus. $125.00. ISBN 0-7817-4673-6.

Reviewed By: Laura Moore Fox, PhD

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Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy is largely recognized as a primary resource for a wide scope of information related to the pharmaceutical sciences and to the practice of pharmacy. In this newest edition, the familiar format and 8 sections of *Remington* were retained, but use of color headings more clearly delineates between sections of text and increases the ease of reading. Upon request, purchasers of the book can obtain a free compact disc (CD) from the publisher, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. The companion CD is essentially a scanned version of the entire book. The companion CD is portable and allows users to access the content of *Remington* from a computer, easily locate topics, bookmark pages, and add individual notes to the page or topic. The greatest advantage provided by the CD is the search function. With any large text, indices cannot adequately annotate every possible search term. The expanded search function of the CD version allows finding specific passages and content with significantly less time and effort. In addition, selections of pages can be printed from the CD, allowing transport of portions of the text rather than requiring one to transport the entire 2400-page tome. Thus, provision of a companion CD to *Remington* greatly enhances the functionality of the text.

The extent of revision differs between sections and between chapters. Some chapters were not revised at all between the 20th and 21st editions, whereas other chapters underwent significant updating. For example, Chapter 20, ''Interfacial Phenomena,'' was not altered; however Chapter 48, ''The New Drug Approval Process and Clinical Trial Design,'' was renamed, restructured, and updated considerably to reflect current conditions. Only 1 chapter, ''Pharmacological Aspects of Substance Abuse'' was deleted. The Appendices from the 20th edition, including dose equivalents, the Periodic Chart, and table of logarithms, are not listed in the Table of Contents of the 21st edition but are included in the text just prior to the Glossary. Over 100 new drug monographs were added to this edition. The monographs include similar information as listed in the *Merck Index* but are categorized by drug class rather than alphabetically by chemical name as in the Merck Index.

As stated in the Preface, the bulk of the revisions are concentrated in Part 8, Pharmacy Practice. The main purpose of this expansion of the Pharmacy Practice Section is to aid clinicians in applying the principles detailed in *Remington* to pharmacy practice. Many of the new chapters deal with emerging roles of pharmacists and include chapters entitled, ''Providing a Framework for Ensuring Medication Use Safety,'' ''Re-Engineering Pharmacy Practice,'' ''Integrated Health Care Delivery Systems,'' ''Specialization in Pharmacy Practice,'' ''Pharmacists and Disease State Management,'' and ''Development of a Pharmacy Care Plan and Patient Problem-Solving.'' Many practical tips, such as instructions on writing SOAP notes and preparing manuscripts for publication, are also included in the new chapter, ''Professional Communication.'' It is obvious from the addition of these new topics and the inclusion of 95 new contributing authors that the editors of *Remington* desire to keep this traditional pharmacy resource abreast with the rapidly changing field of pharmacy. Although its cost may preclude use as a textbook for pharmacy students, *Remington* is an invaluable resource for all pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

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